

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT and TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

YOSHITAKA MATSUYAMA

: ATTN: APPLICATION BRANCH

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION

:

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

**Please amend Claims 16 and 17 as shown in clean form below. A marked-up copy showing in detail the changes to be made to these claims is attached.**

16. A method for preparing an optical fiber cable defined in Claim 1, comprising distributing the optical fibers in the partitioning spacer, and then forming the sheath by thermoplastic resin extruded from a resin extruder.

17. The method for preparing an optical fiber cable according to Claim 16, further comprising heat-treating the partitioning spacer under a thermal environment at 70 – 90°C before preparation of the optical fiber cable.